AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling at least one of ~~the~~ speed and ~~and/or~~ direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of a screw discharger having a screw which is rotatable about a longitudinal axis and is moveable in a pile of bulk material, the method comprising the steps of:
   (a) measuring a (~~1, 11, 101, 201), characterised in that the~~ bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ of the screw discharger ~~is measured~~ with at least one transducer;
   (b) responsively generating ~~or more transducers (112, 212) that generate~~ a loading signal based on the bending load measured by the at least one transducer and directing the loading system thereby generated to a drive system operatively connected to the screw discharger; and ~~on the basis of which a drive system (110, 210)~~
   (c) controlling at least one of ~~the~~ speed and ~~and/or~~ direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw discharger ~~(1, 11, 101, 201) is controlled~~ in response to the drive system receiving the loading signal.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ when the bending load on the screw as measured by the at least one transducer results in a loading ~~value or the screw (2, 12, 102, 202)~~ signal having a value which falls below a preset value y_{1_a} the speed of movement of the screw discharger ~~(1, 11, 101, 201)~~ is increased.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ when the bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ as measured by the at least one transducer results in a loading value which exceeds a preset value x_{1_a}

at least one of the speed of movement of the screw is reduced and ~~and/or~~ the direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw is changed.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ when the bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ as measured by the at least one transducer results in a loading value which exceeds a preset value x_1, the speed of movement of the screw is reduced and if the bending load at this lesser speed of movement exceeds a preset value x_2, the value x_2 being equal to or greater than x_1, the direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw is then changed for a preset period of time.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises controlling ~~characterised in that~~ a frequency converter ~~(118, 218) is controlled~~ on the basis of the bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~, and wherein the ~~which~~ frequency converter controls the drive system ~~(110, 210)~~ that controls at least one of the speed and ~~and/or~~ direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw discharger ~~(1, 11, 101, 201)~~.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for controlling at least one of ~~the~~ speed ~~and/or~~ and direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of a screw discharger having ~~(1, 11, 101, 201), which screw discharger comprises~~ a frame ~~(3, 23, 103, 203)~~, a discharger screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ attached to the frame which is rotatable about a longitudinal axis and moveable in a pile of bulk material, and a drive system ~~(110,210)~~ for driving the discharger screw, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the apparatus comprises:

at least one ~~or more~~ measurement transducer ~~transducers (112, 212)~~ arranged to measure ~~the~~ a bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ and to transmit measurement data based on the bending load thereby measured,

a control unit ~~(113, 213)~~ for processing the measurement data transmitted from the at least one transducer ~~(112, 212)~~ and for converting the measurement

data into a control signal for the drive system ~~(110, 210)~~ that controls at least one of ~~the~~ speed and ~~and/or~~ direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw discharger ~~(1, 11, 101, 201)~~, and

data transmission equipment ~~(214, 217, 219)~~ for transmitting the measurement data from the at least one transducer ~~(112, 212)~~ to the control unit ~~(113, 213)~~ and for transmitting the control signal from the control unit ~~(113, 213)~~ to the drive system ~~(110, 210)~~.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the drive system ~~(110, 210)~~ comprises a frequency converter ~~(118, 218)~~ arranged for controlling at least one of the speed and ~~and/or~~ direction of movement ~~(A, B)~~ of the screw discharger ~~(1, 11, 101, 201)~~ generated by the drive system ~~(110, 210)~~.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least ~~characterised in that~~ one ~~or more~~ measurement transducer for ~~transducers (112, 212)~~ measuring the bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ is installed on the inside or outside surface of the screw pipe ~~(107, 207)~~.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least ~~characterised in that~~ one ~~or more~~ measurement transducer for ~~transducers (112, 212)~~ measuring the bending load on the screw ~~(2, 12, 102, 202)~~ is located in the frame ~~(3, 13, 103, 203)~~ of the screw discharger.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least ~~characterised in that~~ one ~~or more~~ measurement transducer for ~~transducers~~ includes ~~(112, 212) is~~ a strain-gauge transducer.